

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A composition for enhancing contrast of one or more areas of a subject for X-ray imaging when administered to a the subject, the composition comprising:

 ~~sterically stabilized liposomes, each liposome~~ encapsulating one or more nonradioactive contrast-enhancing agents, ~~wherein the sterically stabilized liposomes comprise and each liposome comprising:~~ cholesterol, at least one phospholipid, and at least one phospholipid which is derivatized with a polymer chain,

 wherein the average diameter of the sterically stabilized liposomes being is less than 150 nanometers in average diameter.
2. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1, ~~where~~ wherein the X-ray imaging is computed tomography.
3. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1, ~~where~~ wherein the nonradioactive contrast-enhancing agents are selected from at least one of: iodinated ionic compounds, or iodinated nonionic compounds, and mixtures thereof.
4. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 3, ~~where~~ wherein a suspension of the ~~sterically stabilized~~ liposomes has a concentration of at least 30 milligrams of iodine per milliliter of the suspension.
5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1, ~~where~~ wherein the average diameter of the ~~sterically-stabilized~~ liposomes is less than 120 nanometers.
7. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1, ~~where~~ wherein the composition is capable of being administered to the bloodstream of the subject.
8. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 7, ~~where~~ wherein the composition provides an enhanced contrast that remains detectable at least 30 minutes after administration.
9. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 7, ~~where~~ wherein the composition provides an enhanced contrast of at least 50 Hounsfield units in at least part of at least one of a vasculature ~~or~~ and an organ of a the subject ~~that is increased by at least 50 Hounsfield units~~.
10. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1, ~~where~~ wherein the ~~sterically-stabilized~~ liposomes are PEGylated liposomes.
11. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1, ~~where~~ wherein the ~~sterically-stabilized~~ liposomes are targeted liposomes.
- 12.-24. (Cancelled).
25. (Currently amended) A composition for enhancing contrast of one or more areas of a subject for X-ray imaging when administered to the subject, ~~including at least one~~

~~sterically stabilized liposome~~ the composition comprising liposomes, each liposome
comprising:

at least one first lipid or phospholipid;

at least one second lipid or phospholipid which is derivatized with one or more polymers;
and

at least one sterically bulky excipient capable of stabilizing the ~~sterically-stabilized~~
~~liposome~~ liposomes;

wherein the average diameter of the at least one sterically-stabilized liposome is
liposomes is less than 150 nanometers in average diameter, and wherein ~~the at least one~~
~~nonradioactive contrast enhancing agent is encapsulated by the at least one sterically~~
~~stabilized liposome~~ each liposome encapsulates at least one nonradioactive contrast
enhancing agent.

26. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 25, wherein the at least one first lipid or phospholipid ~~includes~~ comprises 1,2-dipalmitoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine (DPPC).
27. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 25, wherein the at least one second lipid or phospholipid which is derivatized with one or more polymers ~~includes~~ comprises [N-(carbonylmethoxypolyethyleneglycol 2000)-1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphatidylcholine] (DSPE-MPEG2000).
28. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 25, wherein the at least one sterically bulky excipient is ~~chosen~~ selected from ~~one or more~~ at least one of: sterols, fatty alcohols, and fatty acids, ~~or a mixture~~ and mixtures thereof.

29. (Previously amended) The composition of claim 25, wherein the at least one sterically bulky excipient is cholesterol.
30. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 25, wherein the ~~at least one sterically stabilized liposome is~~ liposomes are not autoclaved.
31. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 25, wherein the ~~sterically-stabilized liposome is~~ liposomes are contained in a suspension medium, at least some of the contrast enhancing agent that has not been encapsulated by the ~~sterically-stabilized liposome~~ liposomes having been removed from the suspension medium.
32. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 25, wherein the at least one first lipid or phospholipid is present in the amount of about 55 to about 75 mol %; the at least one second lipid or phospholipid which is derivatized with one or more polymers is present in the amount of about 1 to about 20 mol %; and the at least one sterically bulky excipient is present in the amount of about 25 to about 40 mol %.
33. (Previously amended) The composition of claim 32, wherein the at least one first lipid or phospholipid is hydrogenated soy phosphatidylcholine; the at least one second lipid or phospholipid which is derivatized with one or more polymers is [N-(carbonylmethoxypolyethyleneglycol 2000)-1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphatidylcholine] (DSPE-MPEG2000); and the at least one sterically bulky excipient is cholesterol.